

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

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PRESS RELEASE

SIGNING OF THE BANGLADESH-US COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION INITIATIVE

DHAKA, OCTOBER 22 – Today, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena and Ministry of Home Affairs Senior Secretary C. Q. K. Mustaq Ahmed signed the Bangladesh-US Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The objective of the initiative is to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation between the United States and Bangladesh as an important element of our bilateral partnership and engagement.

The text of the Cooperation Initiative is below.

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বাংলাদেশ-যুক্তরাষ্ট্র সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী সহযোগিতা উদ্যোগ স্বাক্ষর

ঢাকা, ২২শে অক্টোবর – আজ বাংলাদেশে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের রাষ্ট্রদূত ড্যান মজীনা ও স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের ঊর্ধ্বতন সচিব সি.কিউ.কে. মুশতাক আহমেদ স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ে বাংলাদেশ-যুক্তরাষ্ট্র সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী সহযোগিতা উদ্যোগ স্বাক্ষর করেন। এই উদ্যোগের লক্ষ্য হলো যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী সহযোগিতার উন্নয়ন করা যা আমাদের দ্বিপাক্ষিক অংশীদারিত্ব ও সম্পর্কের এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অংশ।

সহযোগিতা উদ্যোগের মূল প্রতিপাদ্য নিম্নে প্রদান করা হলো।

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Bangladesh-U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Sharing a multifaceted and evolving relationship that reflects shared objectives and global interests;

Recognizing the vital importance of freedom, human rights, democratic institutions and processes and the commensurate need for combating terrorism as well as ensuring rule of law;

Further underscoring the changes in the international security environment that pose challenges not only to the United States of America and Bangladesh but throughout the world;

Reiterating that terrorism and transnational crime are threats to both countries and the world community; and

Reaffirming their determination to fight terrorism and transnational crime and to prevent the growth of terrorist organizations;

1. State their intention to enhance their counter-terrorism cooperation as an important element of their bilateral partnership and engagement. In pursuit of this shared objective, the two countries intend to:

- a. Promote exchanges regarding the modernization of techniques to combat terrorism effectively in order to strengthen their counter terrorism capabilities;
- b. Develop and strengthen partnerships and increase exchanges between law enforcement agencies in the United States and Bangladesh;
- c. Promote co-operation between their respective investigators and prosecutors with a view to prosecuting terrorism and other major crimes effectively;
- d. Promote cooperation between their forensic science laboratories and training institutions;
- e. Work to continue effective mutual legal assistance by mutual consent;

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- f. Strengthen cooperation intended to enhance capabilities to act against money laundering and the financing of terrorism,
 - g. Enhance cooperation with a view toward developing comprehensive cyber security by mutual consent, if requested;
 - h. Promote cooperation on ensuring port and border security, by mutual consent if requested;
 - i. Promote capacity building in the study and analysis of terrorism activities and policy;
 - j. Share best practices and further develop capabilities to prevent weapons of mass destruction from being obtained by terrorist groups and other criminal networks;
 - k. Share expertise in managing the aftermath of terrorist incidents, by mutual consent;
 - l. Enhance the exchange and sharing of best practices, including through training where appropriate, on counterterrorism cooperation between them, by mutual consent; and
 - m. Discuss additional goals and activities for their cooperation, as circumstances merit by mutual consent.
2. This Initiative serves only as a record of the intentions of the two countries and does not constitute, create or give rise to any legally binding or enforceable obligations, express or implied.

Consistent with these objectives, the two countries reaffirm their intention to promote greater mutual understanding and cooperation to combat terrorism at national, regional, and global levels.

Signed in Dhaka in duplicate, on the ____ of ____, 2013.

C Q K Mustaq Ahmed
Senior Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF UNITED
BANGLADESH

Dan Mozena
Ambassador of the United States of
America to Bangladesh

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA